



BLM NEWS

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Bureau of Land Management
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BLM Seeks Public's Ideas On Off-Highway Vehicle Use

New Mexico's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking ideas and comments from the public on how best to ensure environmentally responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on the public lands. The BLM will develop a strategy based on public input to address land-management issues prompted by the growing popularity of OHV use.

"Off-highway vehicle use has increased substantially throughout New Mexico like the rest of the west, BLM State Director Michelle Chávez stated." We want to know how this increase usage is impacting OHV and other recreationists on our lands in the state. We want to hear from all concerned."

Meetings will be held in 4 towns in New Mexico, July 11-13, 2000.

Española

Time - 7-9pm, July 11, 2000
Place- Rio Arriba County Annex, Council Commission Chambers
1122 Industrial Park Road
Española, New Mexico
Contact John Bailey, BLM Taos 505 751-4703

Albuquerque

Time - 6-8 pm, July 12, 2000
Place - BLM Albuquerque Field Office
435 Montano NE
Albuquerque, NM
Contact Debbie Harrington, BLM Albuquerque 505 761-8713

Roswell

Time - 7-9pm, July 12, 2000
Place - Roswell Field Office
2909 West Second Street
Roswell, NM
Contact Howard Parman, BLM 505 627-0212

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Las Cruces

Time - 7-9pm July 13, 2000
Place - New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum

4100 Dripping Springs Road
Las Cruces, NM
Contact Mark Hakkila, BLM 505 525-4341

The goal of the strategy is to provide local managers a framework for addressing issues such as current OHV designations, executive orders, regulations, trends in management and management approaches, route inventory needs, resource issues, special management and sensitive areas and resources, monitoring, education, law enforcement, and budget.

A critical piece of the national strategy development is public participation. The public can comment in a number of ways:

- An OHV mailer will be sent to people who contact the Bureau of Land Management at 1849 C Street N.W., LSB 406-C, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn: Comment Manager, or by submitting electronic comments through the national website at <http://www.blm.gov>;
- Comments will also be gathered at local “listening meetings” which will be held by the BLM.

BLM management of OHVs is guided by an Executive Order established in 1972.

Comments will be collected through August and will be analyzed and used to help create BLM guidance by November 30. Once the guidance is written, the BLM’s next challenge will be to implement it locally with adequate resources and the help of public and private partners to achieve on-the-ground goals.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 264 million surface acres -- than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, which has a budget of \$1.4 billion and a workforce of about 8,700 employees, also administers more than 560 million acres of sub-surface minerals estate throughout the nation. The BLM preserves open space by managing the public lands for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, and mining, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources found on the public lands.

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